



Response to Notice of Formal Request for Information

House Public Health Committee

Interim Charge 1

Related to Behavioral Health

SB 11: Review how school districts are spending their school safety allotment

Texas Gun Sense (TGS) is a nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates for common-sense, evidence-based policies that reduce gun injuries and deaths.

TGS supports transparency in all public processes, including school safety.

School active shooter drills:

Active shooter drills are ineffective at best and traumatizing at worst. A wealth of studies have found that there are serious problems with active shooter drills. The easiest summary of the danger of active shooter drills can be seen at Googling, “do schools active shooter drills prepare or frighten.”

Another concern about active shooter drills in the pandemic is how to do the public health directive of social distancing while in a drill situation.

The committee should be aware of the available research, request details from school districts, and consider the common sense and evidence-based considerations against active shooting drills, including during a pandemic.

Armed Adults at Schools

School safety allotments for safety should go to proven prevention and safety protocols not to arming minimally trained adults with other full-time jobs at the school with firearms. The committee and the public should be aware of to what extent armed school resource officers, school marshals, and school guardians are being used in schools with detailed information on

unintentional incidents, preparedness, re-training, and disparate impact on students with disabilities and students of color.

Texas Gun Sense leads a group of advocacy organizations that have a key interest in guns and safety. I am happy to get information and feedback from the group.

Texas Gun Sense is happy to provide further information.

Thank you.